

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 13 No. 08 - August, 2005

MRAC Officers

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

“Just how lucky can you get?”

Just Think: This time last week I was worried that I'd be recovering from another “Angioplasty...” Here's what actually happened:

On Friday last week (July 29) I had scheduled a stress test for a normal heart check-up. It is one of those tests where you go in and they inject a light radioactive die and then you lay down under a Nuclear Medicine Camera and take a fifteen minute nap as they take pictures of the dispersion of the die around your heart – then comes the hard part – you get on a bike or treadmill – get hooked-up to an EKG machine and they start your heart pumping harder with a level of exercise designed to “stress” the heart function itself – then at the peak of the stress – they inject more of that same die and then ask you (very nicely) to maintain that level of exercise for another minute or two – the next step is an easy one – back to the Nuclear Camera and another fifteen minute nap...

Well – I must not have studied well enough for this one and my cardiologist came in with a long face... I'd failed the test! He was worried about two major areas in my heart: rhythm and the associated blood supply. He needed to perform an Angiogram to get a live 3-D picture of what was going on. That was scheduled for Monday Aug 1st.

I arrived on time (actually a little early) and was admitted to the Angio suite at Waukesha Memorial. My expectations were that I'd get that exam and they would determine that I needed to have my stent replaced or “augmented”... the actual news was different – the exam was pretty short and my doctor told me that I needed five by-passes as I had two major blockages at more than 90%; one at 100% had self-by-passed and another was flowing but at around 60% another was also on the way to closing up... I have to admit some incredulity – my blood pressure has been fine, 123 / 70, or so with swings to 140 / 80 with exercise or stress... Cholesterol – that great killer was under control at less than a 200 total 120 for the LDL (bad cholesterol) and

65 to 70 for the good stuff... It seems that while we were not looking, those readings have become “bad” and cholesterol for people at risk (like me for a genetic issue) should be at less than 140 total still maintaining the 65 to 70 range for the good stuff (it provides lubrication). So my shortness of breath, my inability to run through airports and my lack of energy all started to add up.

The by-pass surgery was scheduled for Tuesday at 10:00 – I arrived for preparations at 7:00 – they were ready for me. While I am writing this from my own perspective and that makes it sound as if it is about me, I want to say that it is more about the professionalism, skill, excellence in communications and dedication to success that the team that took on this task displayed. Everyone checked to make sure I knew why I was there – all the forms were pre-filled out – all the doctors, surgeon, and anesthesiologist were there on time and performed a well choreographed ballet – moving equipment around, starting IV lines, checking to see that all was ready. In fact, the anesthesiologist called me the night before and gave me a preview of coming attractions – explaining the process in detail. As we were getting started that morning he told me there would be a little pinch (like you get at the dentist) and I felt that and – the next thing I felt was waking up in the ICU. I was not comfortable but I was alive! I could see my wife was there standing watching – I blinked my eyes at her (the only part I could consciously move). She took my right hand and gave me a squeeze – I squeezed back and gave her a thumbs up with my left hand. Then I took another nap.

Later in the ICU they determined that I could breathe on my own and removed the tube that had been stuck down my throat (sounds awful and it is) and I learned about all that had happened. The operation started at about 10:00 a.m. and finished around 3:00 p.m.. There are now four new arteries providing blood flow to the heart muscle (not really new – but taken from my right leg). There was no damage to the heart muscle itself. The operation was done “off-pump” – meaning that my heart (while slowed) was beating the whole time. I also learned that the Chief of Surgery at Waukesha

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(414) 332-6 7 2 2**

Visit our website at:

www.qsl.net/mrac/

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Pres. Ltr. cont.d on pg. 4

NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY	
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed. 8:00 PM 147.2700+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Thu. 9:00 PM 50.1600 6 m. SSB Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu. 9:00 PM 146.9100- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Fri. 8:30 PM 28.4900 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.3900- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.6700-	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sat 9:00 PM 146.9100- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun. 8:30 AM 3.9850 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650+	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun. 9:00 AM 145.5650 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun. 10:00 AM 443.8000+ FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	SWAPnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun. 8:00 PM 146.9100- Information Net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.1300	ARRL voice news	Sun. 9:00 PM 146.9100- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when we have our Christmas Dinner.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

TEN-METER NET

Since I joined The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club a recurring discussion has centered on the lack of participants in the 8:30 p.m. Friday Ten Meter Net. Other issues have been the lack of local propagation such that all the participants could hear each other and the complications that arise when there is a ten-meter band opening.

I've been told that this net evolved following Novice enhancement in 1987 when that class of license was given phone privileges on 10 and 1.25 meters. Obviously, with the change in license structure over the years this is a non-issue.

Therefore, I would like to see that 8:30 to 9:00 time frame devoted to a two meter FM simplex net. This would then flow naturally into the 9:00 p.m. repeater session and of course is consistent with our sponsorship of the February FM Simplex Contest. Also, it would present an opportunity for more local amateurs to participate.

I hope the Club will give this serious consideration.

73 Sherm
KB9Q, Sherm

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

KG9FC K9LCQ W9UQ
AB9FH WB9PTC KF9XL
KB9Q

Our thanks goes to:

Rita Doneis, Tom Fuszard, and Hal Newton for proofreading the 'Chatter' this month.

Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter'.

Joe Schwarz, N9UX who Emails the 'Chatter'.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

**Thank
YOU!**



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7/30/05

Patrick, W9UQ, called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and introduced himself. The microphone was passed so that the members and visitors present could introduce themselves.

Patrick announced that Joe, KA9DFZ, has resigned his position as director. We will be seeking a replacement for Joe starting at the next meeting.

We were to discuss the club labels, but due to Joe's departure the discussion has been tabled.

At the next membership meeting Howard, AB9FH, will be demonstrating our new website.

Patrick queried the membership on whether there was a need to read the minutes from the last meeting since they were published in the 'Chatter. Four members present did not receive a Chatter. The minutes were read by the club secretary Brian, K9LCQ. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Patrick called for a motion to accept the minutes as read. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pancho, KA9OFA, and seconded by Tom, WI9TOM. It passed by hand vote.

Due to the absence of the treasurer Tom, AB9EK, the treasurer's report was not read.

Howard, AB9FH, gave a brief

talk on the upcoming Tech Class to be sponsored by MRAC. The class will start on September 17 and run for six classes concluding in time for testing in October. Classes, which will be held at AES, will run from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Howard also gave some details on the last class. If interested in helping, contact Howard.

Tom, KF9PU, gave a report on the NCVEC conference. He attended the conference with Dave, WB9BWP. The biggest news was that the FCC has proposed eliminating the code requirement for all license classes. Also proposed was an entry level class. Once the proposal is published in the Federal Register interested parties have 75 days in which to comment. Then there is a rebuttal period. Do not expect a decision until spring of 2006 at the earliest.

The cost of vanity calls is increasing. When renewing you will be asked if the name on the form is a name change, this a mandatory stated Yes or No.

Dave, WB9BWP, gave his report on the conference echoing much of what Tom stated. In addition, Dave informed us that Tom was re-elected as Chairman of the VEC's for the 3rd year.

Dave also stated he has heard some misinformation on the air recently about the elimination of the code requirement namely the code is no longer required. Code is still required; currently the elimination of code is only in the discussion stage.

The 2005 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award winner is Jerry Martin, KC9BDA. The annual award honors an amateur who demonstrates outstanding public relations success on behalf of Amateur Radio at the local, state or national level. Jerry is a friend of Dave's and frequent visitor. He also participates in Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES events.

The repeater controller has not yet been swapped. It will be swapped just as soon as it can be scheduled.

John, WB9PSE, asked about Field Day. Jerry, WA9CGE, our Field Day chairman gave an account of our Field Day activities.

A call for a motion to adjourn was made. A motion to adjourn was made by Pancho, KA9OFA, and seconded by Tom, WI9TOM. It passed by hand vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K9LCQ

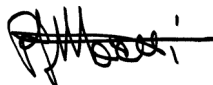
Brian White, K9LCQ
MRAC Secretary



Memorial had performed the operation. I spent that night in the ICU under close personal monitoring.

The next day I was transferred to the Heart Care Unit and spent the next three days there. A regimen of exercise – gentle at first and more strenuous as I demonstrated ability to perform it – medicine to balance and stabilize all vital signs – personal care by more dedicated people – people interested in your own successful recovery and driving you in that direction with their encouragement and support. On Friday at 5:00 p.m. I went home!

And – here I am writing this! I was very pleased to see the other side of the coin – strange coincidence that just the Thursday evening before I had given the club a presentation on the technical advances of medicine – then got to experience them myself directly such a short time later! It is a wonder and I am truly grateful to all of the efforts and professionalism of all the people involved.



73 and see you at our next meeting!

PART OF OUR SATURDAY MORNING GANG



*Who came to breakfast at Maxim's on Sat. July 23rd?
Left to right, Floyd - AB9EX, Dick - W9JBE, Pancho - KA9OFA,
Carlos - KG9FC, & Phill - KC9CI*

For details about our Saturday breakfasts, see below.

DEADLINE

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by e-mail at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA

1958 N. 38th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

OTA CW CLASSES

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is still holding his "On The Air" code lessons/practice sessions. The class/practice is held on **Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m.** on our repeater.

He starts off with a rehash of what he worked on before and then goes on to new characters. When he is done, he shifts gears and picks up a little speed towards the end. In between, he explains some operating practices, usually having to do with CW operation.

REMINDERS!

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:30 p.m. at 28.490 MHz. USB.**

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

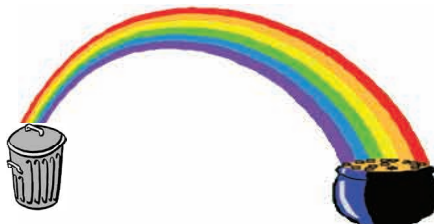
Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us. **Y'all come!!**

EVENTS

MRAC Gen. Membership Mtg.
THU. - AUG. 25, 2005

Radio Expo 2005
SAT. & SUN. - SEP. 17 & 18, 2005
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 (107.2 PL)

Peoria Superfest *
FRI. - SUN. - SEP. 16, 17, 18, 2005
Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL



Fox Cities Amateur Radio *
Club SwapFest
SUN. - NOV. 6, 2005
Menasha, WI
T/I on 146.76 - rptr. PL 100 Hz

MRAC Christmas Party/Dinner
Machine Shed?

WARAC SwapFest *
SAT. - JAN. 7, 2006
Waukesha Co. EXPO
Waukesha, WI

* indicates VE testing is available.

VEC REPORT

MRAC VEC held VE testing on July 30, 2005 at AES. There were 17 candidates, and 12 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first license. Twenty Elements were given, and twelve were passed.

VEs who helped out at the session included the following:

Doug Awe -----N9VA
Gabe Chido -----WI9GC
Tom Czaja-----KG9EE
Pancho Doneis-----KA9OFA
Bob Immekus-----W9CYI
John Kraak -----KF9XL
Tom Liebe-----WI9TOM
Sherm Swanson -----KB9Q
Ron Yokes-----W9BCK

Our next scheduled VE session is Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at AES. Have a great summer.

73,

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL

HAM RADIO CLASSES

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC) will be offering a free amateur radio license class starting **September 17th at 2pm.**

The class will cover the material necessary to pass the exam for the **Technician** license, the entry level license for ham radio.

The class will run for 6 Saturdays (ending October 22nd); it will be held at **ITT Technical Institute** at **6300 W Layton Avenue in Greenfield.**

The textbook for the class is "**Now You're Talking**", published by the ARRL and is available from their website <http://www.arrl.org> or from Amateur Electronic Supply on Good Hope road in Milwaukee. MRAC has copies to loan to students for the duration of the class.

Registration is recommended, because class size is limited.

Contact MRAC: at **414-332-6722** or w9rh@arrl.net.

You may take your test at AES the following weekend (Sat., Oct. 29th).

EXAM SCHEDULE

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule
2005-06

Sat., Sep. 24, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Oct. 29, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Nov. 26, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Jan. 7, 2006 - 9 a.m. @ AMF
Waukesha Lanes (Near EXPO)
(WARAC Swapfest)
Sat., Jan. 28, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Feb. 25, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Apr. 1, 2006 - 9 a.m. @ AES
Superfest
Sat., Apr. 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., May 27, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

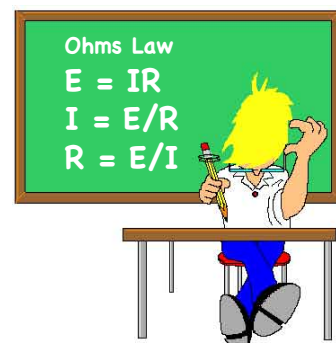
AES = Amateur Electronic Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

73,

John (KF9XL)

KF9XL



The **next meeting of MRAC**
will be **Thursday, August 25, 2005**
at **7:00 PM**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our Repeater:

145.390 MHz - offset
with PL of 127.3 Hz

Use it today and
every day!

Our program for the
August meeting will
be a presentation by
Howard, AB9FH,
about our proposed
new website.

Visit our website at **www.qsl.net/mrac/**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



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